

Christian Seeking Identity

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During the months of March and April, we hosted two Charis Bible College mission trips to Ecuador. We took them both to Machala Ecuador. Both teams conducted three days of the six day vacation Bible School that was being held at the church called 'Seguidores de Cristo' pastured by Alfonso Piedras. God is such an amazing God! Although the teams were from two different Charis Bible Colleges, and none of the members of the teams had any contact with the members of the other team, they chose the same theme. The first team conducted the first three days of the school, and two weeks later after the first team had gone home, the next team came and conducted the last three days of the school.

The first team was from the Atlanta school. It consisted of four men and one apprentice. We called them the "Five Gringos." Normally, women are in charge of conducting Vacation Bible Schools. It was awesome to see these five men capture the hearts of the children as they acted out the story of the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the prodigal son by role playing. They had their attention from the first "Baa!"

The second team consisted of sixteen men and women from Colorado Springs. They continued to carry out the theme of "lost sheep" with their puppet shows. Each team ministered in a totally different manner, but each was equally effective.



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Kenyon admires the day's catch.

THE DAY'S CATCH

I will make you fishers of men.

The Atlanta team ministered in various cell groups in Machala, as well as in Pastor Alfonso's church. They ministered in a small church in the town of Huaquillas on the Peruvian border and in various churches in Salinas, a resort town five hours north of Machala. The final day, we asked each of the men to tell us what they experienced that impacted them the most.

Kenyon said, "It was the fish house." This was a cell group was held in the home of a fisherman at the port in Machala.



Tim, who is a surgeon, told us that it was when he was able to minister healing with the power and the authority of the great physician to the baby that belonged to one of the workers on the banana farm we visited in Machala.

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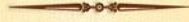
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CHILDREN & YOUTH

Let the little children come to me.



Tom, said it was ministering to the children.

Courtney said it was “ministering to the youth group in Salinas.”

Bill, the apprentice leading the team said that it was “the God talks that he and Mickey had as they walked on the beach in Salinas each morning.”

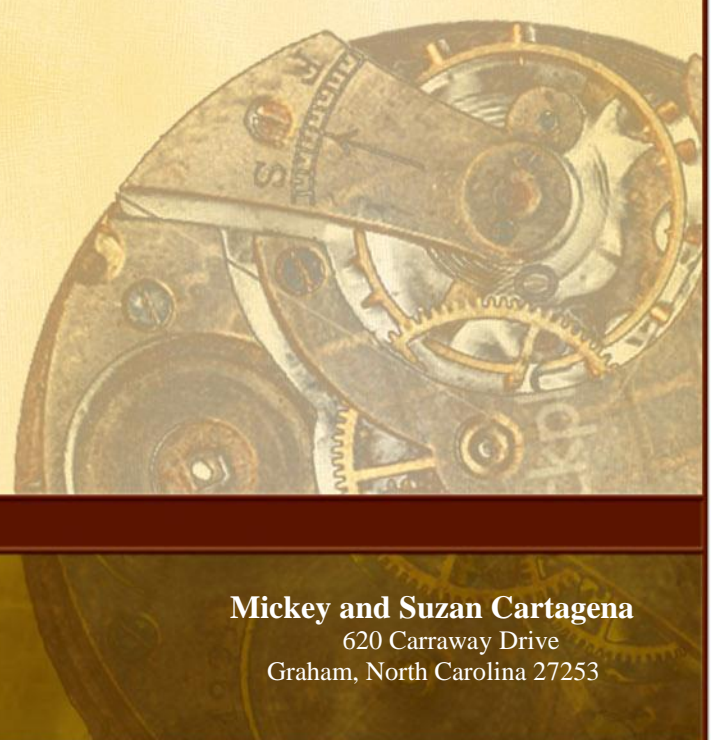
Six days after the Atlanta team left, fourteen Colorado Springs students, accompanied by CBC staff members Delron and Peggy Shirley, arrived. They ministered in various churches and cell groups in Machala and surrounding areas. They also held both a woman’s and a men’s retreat. Their ministry to the Ecuadorians was powerful, but they all agreed that what God ministered to them through the people of Ecuador was just as powerful.



Neighborhood church in Salinas being built.



Courtney's highlight was ministering to the youth.



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Here are a few of the comments that the students made:

“Love was the theme of our mission trip. We were kissed and loved by each member of every church. Love knows no boundaries or language barrier. This is my vivid memory.”

“I personally really connected with the people here in Ecuador so much that it hurts to think about leaving them.”

“Amidst the hustle and bustle of the busy streets of Machala there is a church! The people there display the awesome love of Jesus Christ. Although the language barrier between English and Spanish was evident, it was dismantled through the love and power of the Holy Spirit.”

STUDENT COMMENTS

WOW!

“The language barrier may have separated us but the love of God drew us together. I will not be able to ever forget the wonderful people I met here in Ecuador.”

“A lady named Rosa asked me to pray for healing for her son-in-law. He had only two months to live because of a bad heart condition. I had doubt that I could do this myself, but I knew that the Holy Spirit could! I prayed with her--just a simple prayer. Three days later she came back to church with a testimony. Her daughter had called and said that the son-in-law was doing well. I needed that miracle almost as much as he and his family did. “Thank you Lord!”

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MORE PICTURES

Smile!



April 16th Mickey and I traveled to Colombia where we have three seminars with pastors scheduled and where we will also host another mission trip with students from Colorado Springs.



**Our web site has been
up-dated and now has a
Spanish link!**

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